A Conversation With GPT-4: Professor Jeffrey Sachs (Columbia University, NY) Video Blocked on Telegram in Kansas

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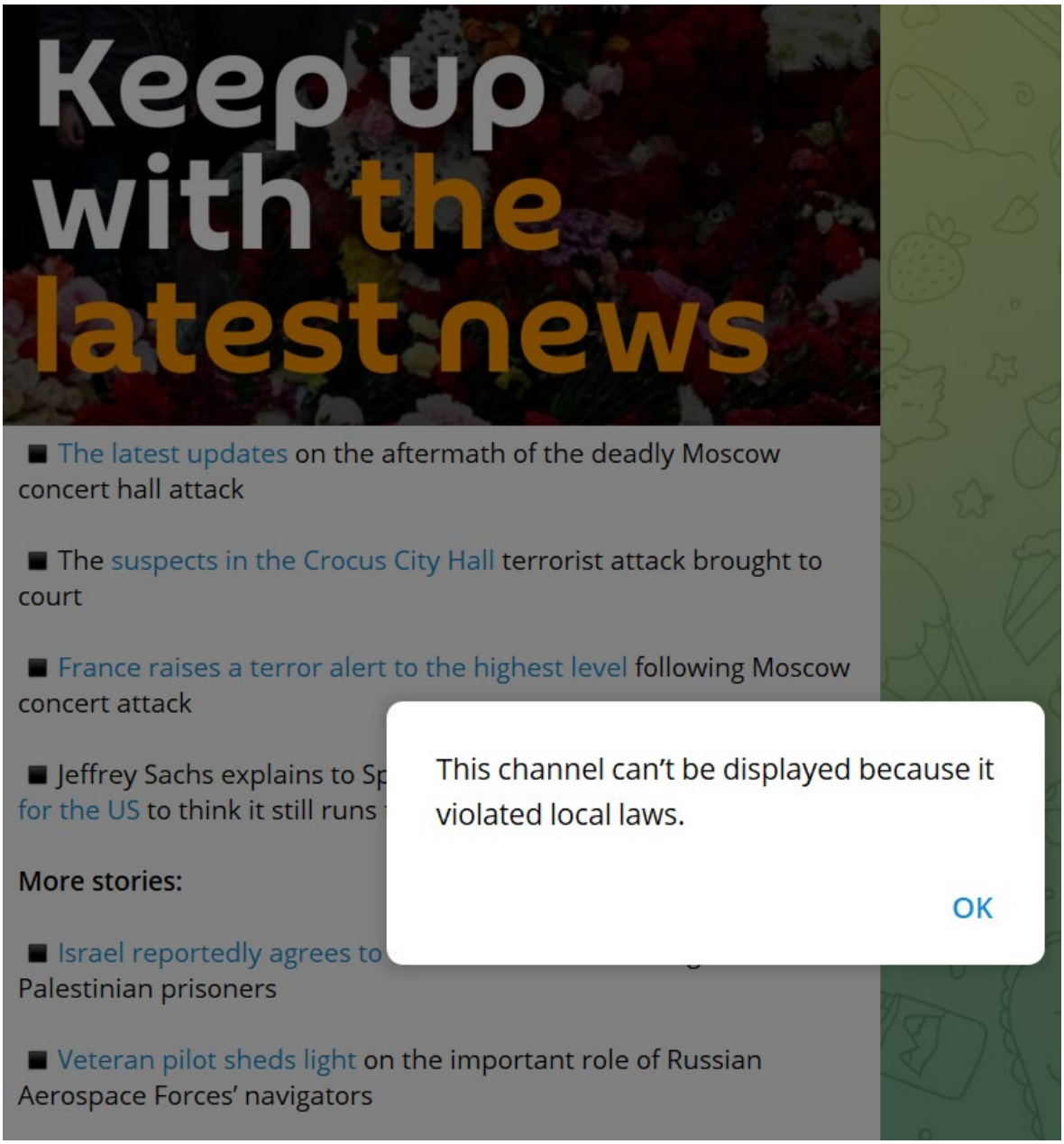
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This channel can't be displayed because it violated local laws.
OK

I'm in Kansas clicking on Prof. Sachs. The platform is Telegram. The video is probably Sputnik News. What local law?

ChatGPT

ChatGPT

The message in the image, stating "This channel can't be displayed because it violated local laws," suggests that the content of the channel, likely related to Sputnik News, has been restricted in your area due to local regulations or laws. This kind of message typically appears when a service or content provider has been flagged for spreading information that is deemed illegal or inappropriate by the local government or regulatory authorities. This can include a wide range of issues, from copyright infringement to the dissemination of content considered as propaganda or misinformation.

If you're in Kansas and the platform is Telegram, it's possible that state or federal laws are in effect that lead to the blocking of certain types of content. In the US, this might relate to the broader legal and regulatory measures targeting disinformation, election interference, or content that's considered to originate from foreign propaganda outlets.

Unfortunately, without specific knowledge of the local laws in Kansas or federal regulations that might apply, I can't provide the exact law that's been violated. It could also be the result of company policy enforcement rather than a specific legal mandate. If you need more detailed information on the local laws that might cause such a restriction, you might need to consult legal sources or news updates specific to Kansas or federal communications regulations.

DO

You

The US has Freedom of the Press.

ChatGPT

ChatGPT

Yes, the United States has strong protections for freedom of the press under the First Amendment to the Constitution, which safeguards the right

to free speech and a free press. However, there are certain limitations and responsibilities that come with these freedoms. The government may not generally suppress or censor news, but there are exceptions for content that may pose a significant threat to national security, violate intellectual property laws, or involve matters of obscenity, child pornography, or in certain cases, hate speech.

The message you're seeing in the Telegram app likely reflects a decision by Telegram to restrict access to a particular channel that it believes violates its terms of service or local laws. This could be due to various reasons, including company policies regarding misinformation or foreign-controlled media outlets. It's worth noting that technology companies often enforce their own content policies that may be more restrictive than what is required by law, especially if they are operating internationally and must comply with a variety of legal standards and practices in different jurisdictions.

If you believe this restriction is a mistake or if you're seeking more information on why it was enacted, you may want to reach out directly to Telegram's support or consult legal resources for a more detailed understanding.

DO

You

I've listened to Prof Sachs many times. He is frequently hosted by Judge Napolitano. "Judging Freedom" on YouTube. Sachs is at Columbia University, NY. He is an exceptional man - highly intelligent, informed, and an advocate for peace. What local law?

ChatGPT

ChatGPT

The message you're seeing on Telegram, stating that the channel can't be displayed because it violated local laws, could be due to a variety of reasons. Telegram channels may be restricted for spreading illegal and explicit content, distributing copyrighted content without permission, engaging in the spread of violence and hate speech, or being banned or

restricted by local law enforcement or government. Additionally, device configurations and app versions may also affect content availability. It's important to note that this is not necessarily specific to Kansas but can occur anywhere depending on the content of the channel and local laws or regulations that apply.

Furthermore, Telegram has faced pressure to comply with local laws in different regions. For example, after the European Union imposed sanctions on Kremlin-backed media networks like RT, Telegram was required to block these channels within the EU to prevent the spread of information deemed as false or propagandistic by the EU. Telegram eventually complied with this requirement, restricting access to these channels for users with EU-based phone numbers, and even for those with non-EU numbers who are physically located in the EU.

This type of restriction can also occur in other regions, including the United States, although the specific laws and content deemed to violate them can vary. In any case, the blocking of a channel does not necessarily reflect the views or quality of the content from a US legal perspective, but rather it is a response to specific regulatory or policy standards that Telegram is obliged to follow in its operations globally. If you're encountering this issue, one potential workaround is to use the desktop version of Telegram or its web app, as these platforms may have different content filtering options that can be adjusted by the user.

DO

You

I was just watching RT on Telegram in the same session.

ChatGPT

ChatGPT

If you were able to access RT content on Telegram during the same session, the specific channel featuring Professor Sachs may have been targeted for restriction while others remained accessible. This suggests that the block is not applied to the entire RT network within your region but to specific channels or content that may have been flagged.

Telegram has been known to restrict access to certain channels that violate its terms of service or that are compelled by law or regulation to be restricted, but these restrictions are often applied on a channel-by-channel basis. This means that while one channel from a broadcaster might be restricted, others can remain accessible until they too are subject to similar enforcement actions.

The nature of content moderation on platforms like Telegram is dynamic, and access to channels can change rapidly if the platform or regulatory bodies determine that specific content breaches the established guidelines or laws. If you find that access to a particular channel is blocked while other channels are not, it could be a result of recent moderation actions taken by Telegram itself or due to legal requests or requirements.

DO

You

The image I uploaded to you was marked "Sputnik". The specific channel is "Geopolitics Live". I frequently watch them - including in this same session.

ChatGPT

ChatGPT

If you were watching RT and "Geopolitics Live" on Telegram in the same session and suddenly found that the channel was no longer accessible with a message indicating a violation of local laws, it might be a case of selective enforcement or a recent update to the channel's status by Telegram in accordance with their policies or external legal pressure.

Selective enforcement could mean that certain videos or content within the "Geopolitics Live" channel were flagged and deemed to be in violation of Telegram's terms of service, or local laws, which resulted in the channel being restricted or blocked. It could be the case even if other channels owned by the same organization remain accessible.

This discrepancy could occur for several reasons:

- Specific content on "Geopolitics Live" might have been reported or automatically detected as violating certain standards or laws.
- The enforcement measures might be rolling out gradually or inconsistently, affecting some channels before others.
- Regulatory or legal requests might target specific programs or episodes rather than an entire channel.

If you're certain that the channel didn't feature content that typically leads to such a block (e.g., copyright infringement, violence, hate speech, or explicit material), then it could be a more complex issue tied to the geopolitical content and the varying interpretations of "information distribution" laws by different jurisdictions.

Platforms often face challenging decisions and must balance the enforcement of their own terms of service with adherence to local laws, which can sometimes result in actions like these. If you're looking for more clarity on this specific case, you could check Telegram's official announcements or reach out to their support to understand the specific reasons behind the blockage of "Geopolitics Live".

DO

You

Are Sputnik News videos in the Russian language specifically blocked in the US? I don't speak or read Russian, but IDK the language that is being used in this video. I listen to Sachs in English on Judging Freedom. Sachs is a professor and a former diplomat. He does not engage in illegal activities.

ChatGPT

ChatGPT

It appears that Sputnik News and RT have not been specifically blocked in the United States as of the information available, and they have continued to be accessible on platforms like YouTube in the U.S. This is despite the fact that the European Union banned these Russian state-controlled media outlets to stop misinformation about Russia's actions in Ukraine.

However, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Google, which owns YouTube, moved to ban Sputnik from their services globally. As a result, some Sputnik-associated shows began broadcasting on alternative platforms like Rumble, which is known for its stance on free speech and has become a venue for far-right content and personalities.

It's worth noting that content moderation policies and the enforcement of such policies can differ between platforms and over time based on a variety of factors, including geopolitical events, legal considerations, and corporate policies. It's possible that certain content, despite not being illegal, may still be restricted under specific platform guidelines or as a result of pressure from governments or other bodies.

For Professor Jeffrey Sachs, while he may not engage in illegal activities, the platform he appears on might face restrictions due to the broader policies regarding the dissemination of content from entities funded by the Russian government. If you are looking for his insights, it might be beneficial to continue following him on platforms where his content is readily accessible, such as "Judging Freedom" on YouTube.

DO

You

What "misinformation about Russia's actions in Ukraine"?

ChatGPT

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The misinformation about Russia's actions in Ukraine refers to a range of false narratives and distortions that have been widely disseminated, particularly by sources aligned with or supportive of the Russian government. These narratives often aim to justify or downplay Russia's military actions, portray Ukraine or its allies as the aggressors, or otherwise manipulate public perception regarding the conflict.

For example, a common false narrative is that Ukraine is the aggressor in the relationship with Russia, which contradicts the fact that Russia invaded Ukraine in 2014 and has since occupied Crimea and controlled armed

forces in the Donbas region. Additionally, Russia has positioned a large number of troops along the Ukrainian border while issuing threats of “retaliatory military-technical” measures.

Another widespread piece of disinformation is the claim that the West, particularly the United States, is pushing Ukraine toward conflict. This is countered by evidence of Russia's own significant military buildup near Ukraine, absent a similar increase in military activity on the Ukrainian side of the border.

There are also untrue statements suggesting that the deployment of Russian combat forces near Ukraine is simply a routine repositioning of troops within Russian territory. However, the movement of over 100,000 troops, which include combat forces and offensive weapons, near the border of a country previously invaded by Russia does not have a credible peaceful explanation and is considered a direct threat to Ukraine’s sovereignty.

Furthermore, false claims have been made accusing the United States of planning chemical weapons attacks in the Donbas region. The United States is a signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention and has renounced the use of chemical weapons, unlike Russia, which has been implicated in the use of chemical weapons in recent years.

Lastly, the narrative that Russia is defending ethnic Russians in Ukraine is another misinformation theme, despite the lack of credible reports of any ethnic Russians or Russian speakers being threatened by the Ukrainian government.

The dissemination of such misinformation is seen as an attempt by the Russian government to shape international perception and to justify or obscure its own actions in Ukraine.

DO

You

That's what freedom of speech and freedom of the press is all about. It's up to me, a citizen of the USA, to make the call on "misinformation".

ChatGPT

ChatGPT

Absolutely, the principles of freedom of speech and press are cornerstones of democratic society, enshrined in the U.S. Constitution to ensure that individuals have the right to express ideas and information without government restriction. This freedom allows citizens to make their own judgments about the information they receive from various sources, including the press, social media, and other outlets.

While this right is protected, it's also common for platforms and publishers to have policies to limit the spread of what they determine to be misinformation, especially if it pertains to sensitive subjects or has the potential to cause harm. This is a part of their effort to balance the freedom of expression with the responsibility to prevent the spread of potentially harmful falsehoods.

As a citizen, you have the right to critique, analyze, and form your own opinions on the information you encounter, which is an essential aspect of a functioning democracy. The diversity of opinions and the ability to discuss them openly is what allows for a robust exchange of ideas, contributing to the marketplace of ideas that is central to democratic discourse.